

against the objection raised against the electoral vote count in Ohio. Unfortunately, due to the timing of the vote, the short notice of the vote, and various weather related issues, I was unable to fly back to Washington, DC in time to cast my vote in the afternoon of January 6th. I am however, hand-delivering this message to the Clerk of the House in Washington, DC, today January 7th, in order to make my voice heard and to explain my absence. I wholeheartedly support the election results of 2004 and do not believe that this objection was the right course of action. Congress has repeatedly looked at the issue of election practices and fairness and has taken action where it sees fit; most recently with the Help America Vote Act. We will continue to look at these issues from the 2004 election and take necessary steps to ensure that our election process is a free, fair, and open one. I regret the fact that I was unable to cast my official vote, but it is my hope that these words will convey my strong beliefs on this issue and that by hand-delivering this message, my intent to personally partake in this debate will be reflected.

TRIBUTE TO BARNEY KARBANK

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the Kansas City metropolitan area lost one of its leading entrepreneurs and supporters of community development with the death of Barney Karbank. And I lost a friend. One of Kansas City's premier industrial developers, he helped assemble the ground for the Truman Sports Complex and developed more than 100 Kansas City area properties, mostly warehouses and production plants that he rented to other companies.

As a 2000 Kansas City Star profile of Barney Karbank noted: "For five decades, Karbank has survived the booms and busts of real estate with a simple strategy: build and hold. Karbank occasionally buys a building, rarely sells and never refinances a property once it's paid off. He has never lost a parcel to foreclosure, he said, nor has he sold one to avoid a creditor's noose. . . . 'He's at the top of the industrial real estate market heap in Kansas City', said Roger Cohen, a former Karbank partner who now heads his own firm."

A dedicated participant in the civic life of our community, Barney Karbank was always active in local charitable, religious and service organizations. But most important to him were the relationships he developed throughout the community in his business activities: as the Star quoted him in 2000: "'Instead of lending people dollars, we're lending bricks and mortar,' Karbank said. While other developers borrow money against properties, Karbank has used his leverage to build relationships with tenants. 'We're not merchant builders,' Karbank said. 'If you're going to come to the dance with us, you're going to leave the dance with us.'"

Mr. Speaker, I join with all of Kansas City in mourning the passing of this giant among our

community who literally changed its skyline. I was privileged to call him my friend and supporter, and our family shares the sense of loss that I know his family now feels. I am placing into the RECORD a profile of Barney Karbank carried by the Kansas City Star in recognition of his death.

[From the Kansas City Star, Jan. 18, 2005]

BARNEY KARBANK DIES AT 80—LEADING DEVELOPER LEFT HIS MARK ON KC REAL ESTATE

(By Dan Margolies)

Barney Karbank, one of Kansas City's premier industrial and commercial developers, died Sunday after a long illness. He was 80.

Karbank, chairman of B.A. Karbank & Co., developed more than 100 properties in the area, mostly warehouses and production plants he rented to other companies.

"It's a real changing of the guard," said Olen Monsees, president of B.A. Karbank. "He was just such a legend in this business. The world will go on, but we'll miss him."

The son of a fish-market operator, Karbank walked with a cane all his life following a childhood bout with polio. He started out as an unpaid clerk for James B. Welsh Realty in 1946 before joining Charles F. Curry Co. the following year. Deciding that pushing brooms, running errands and selling houses wasn't for him, he began B.A. Karbank & Co. as a real estate brokerage firm in 1950 at the age of 26.

He constructed his first building, at 2615 Holmes St., for Borg-Warner Corp. after paying a cold call on Borg-Warner. More than five decades later, his company controls more than 5 million square feet of industrial and commercial space in the metropolitan area, as well as buildings in other cities.

Settling for a build-and-hold strategy, Karbank described his business in a 2000 interview with The Star as lending people bricks and mortar instead of money.

Karbank rarely sold the projects he developed, focusing instead on ownership. Among his major projects in Kansas City and elsewhere were buildings for dozens of companies, including General Electric Co., Sunkist Growers Inc., the U.S. Postal Service, Southwestern Bell, Chevron Chemical Co., Westinghouse Electric Co., Whirlpool Corp. and General Motors Corp.

"He took great pride in never defaulting on a loan, never giving property back to a lender, never putting a project in bankruptcy, never asking for a loan workout and never refinancing a property," said his son, Steven Karbank, president of Karbank Development Co., the operation's development arm.

Barney Karbank left his mark on almost every major industrial park in the area. He also assembled a major portion of the land for the Truman Sports Complex and undertook land assemblages for other clients, including sites for the area's first cellular phone system.

A Kansas City native, he attended Paseo High School and Kansas City Junior College. Outspoken in his views, he resigned in 1969 from the City Plan Commission after criticizing it for doing "practically no planning as such." For years, he inveighed against Missouri's redevelopment laws, which he said gave private developers too much power to subvert public purposes.

"The survival of the city is in direct proportion to its ability to rebuild itself," he told The Star in a 1969 interview. "Everyone is for new development and new buildings and growth. But in what way should it come?"

Barney Karbank served on the boards of numerous business and professional organi-

zations, including First Federal Bank, Mercantile Bank and La Petite Academy Inc. He was treasurer for the Committee for County Progress in the 1960s and a member of both the City Plan Commission and the Jackson County Board of Zoning Adjustment.

He was a director of many civic and charitable organizations, including the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City, the Jewish Community Foundation, Congregation Beth Shalom and Menorah Medical Center.

Barney Karbank is survived by his wife of 55 years, Rose Karbank; their four children, Marcia Karbank, Diane Davidner, Neil Karbank and Steven Karbank, and their spouses; his brother Joe Karbank; 15 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

FREEDOM FOR ALFREDO RODOLFO DOMÍNGUEZ BATISTA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Alfredo Rodolfo Domínguez Batista, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Domínguez Batista is a member of the Christian Liberation Movement and a peaceful pro-democracy activist attempting to liberate the people of Cuba. Because of his actions to bring freedom and democracy to Cuba, Mr. Domínguez Batista was targeted by the tyrant's machinery of repression. In March 2003, as part of the despicable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, he was arrested. In a sham trial, Mr. Domínguez Batista was sentenced to 14 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Despite the depraved conditions and the threat of confinement in punishment cells, described by the U.S. Department of State as "semi-dark all the time, had no water available in the cell, and had a hole for a toilet," Mr. Domínguez Batista has continued to fight for basic human rights. According to Amnesty International, he has bravely participated in multiple hunger strikes to protest the abhorrent conditions in the gulag and the depraved treatment of fellow political prisoners.

Today, January 20, 2005, marks another milestone in the peaceful continuation of representative democracy in the United States of America. President George W. Bush was elected in free and fair elections that were conducted with transparency and guided by the rule of law. On a day that celebrates the freedoms enshrined in our national documents and imbedded in the national character of the United States, we should never forget those brave men and women, like Mr. Domínguez Batista, who languish in hellish gulags because they believe in the same freedoms that we celebrate today.

Mr. Speaker, on this day of commemoration, let us not forget those who yearn to celebrate political and human rights in their own countries. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Alfredo Rodolfo Domínguez Batista and every prisoner of conscience languishing in the dungeons of tyrants.